PHARMACISTS' BULLETIN

NOVA SCOTIA SENIORS' PHARMACARE PROGRAM

PHARMACARE

NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

December 2006 Vol. #06-15

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE COST

CHANGE IN PUBLICLY FUNDED DRUG PROGRAM PRICING PROCEDURE - EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2007

Please note that the Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) and special MAC pricing and procedure is being revised. **As of April 1, 2007, the Maximum Allowable Cost List will be based on the drug prices published by other publicly funded drug programs.** The prices published by the Ontario Drug Benefit Program, Saskatchewan Health Drug Plans and Extended Benefits Branch, and manufacturer list prices will be referenced to determine the lowest drug price for each MAC category.

Prices for public drug programs may be viewed online –

- Ontario Drug Benefit Program - *http://216.176.50.202/formulary/index.jsp* (accessed Dec 20, 2006)
- Saskatchewan - *http://formulary.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca* (accessed Dec 20, 2006) See the low cost alternative price and/or standing offer contract (SOC) price.

The enclosed MAC List will be effective from January 15, 2007 to March 31, 2007 only. A revised MAC List is expected to be published no later than March 15, 2007. The pricing procedures described in the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs Pharmacists' Guide (page 17 and 18 - July 2006) will be revised in the next update to the guide.

Please contact Pharmacy Claims 496-7001, or toll free 1-800-305-5026, if you have any questions regarding the pending change in MAC pricing.

NEW BOARDING TRANSPORTATION & OSTOMY (BTO) PROGRAM ELECTRONIC BILLING FOR OSTOMY SUPPLIES

As described in the previous Pharmacists' Bulletin (Vol. #06-14) regarding the new BTO program, ostomy supplies previously invoiced to the CCS-NSD should be submitted electronically using clients Nova Scotia Health Card.

Eligibility for the program and approved benefits will be confirmed at the time of claim submission. **If a product that was previously paid for by the Cancer Society is rejected when billed electronically, please contact the Pharmacare office 429-6565 or toll free at 1-800-544-6191** for verification regarding benefit status.

Payment for the ostomy supply claims will be included in the regular biweekly payment.

NEW NURSE PRACTITIONER

The following nurse practitioner has been added to this group of prescribers.

Deborah Roach (License #721406)

Please retain for your reference. See the Nova Scotia Formulary for Pharmacare benefits which can be insured if prescribed by nurse practitioners.

INCLUDED WITH THIS BULLETIN:

- **Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) List** *effective January 15, 2007*
- **Pharmacare Programs System Implementation**

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE COST (MAC) LIST

The enclosed copy of the new Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) List, will be in effect from January 15, 2007 to March 31, 2007. Please note that the prices underlined are effective January 15, 2007. Actual Acquisition Cost (AAC) will be paid for all *new* categories indicated by the black box, until January 15, 2007.

The following are MAC categories for which the lowest priced brand is currently unavailable due to shortage by the manufacturer. *Effective immediately*, the products indicated below will be paid at AAC. As the lower priced brands become available the established MAC price will be reinstated.

ACETYLSALICYLIC ACID 325mg EC Tab	00010332	Entrophen	PMS
	00216666	Novasen	NOP
CYCLOSPORINE 25mg Cap	02150689	Neoral	NVR
ERYTHROMYCIN BASE 333mg Cap	00873454	ERYC 333	PFI
LEVOFLOXACIN 250mg Tab	02236841	Levaquin	JAN
LEVOFLOXACIN 500mg Tab	02236842	Levaquin	JAN
METHYLPHENIDATE 20mg SR Tab	00632775	Ritalin SR	NVR

The following **categories** have been removed from the MAC List. For those categories which have been removed due to discontinuation of one of the brands by the manufacturer, AAC will be paid for the products which have not been discontinued, effective ***January 15, 2007***.

CHOLESTYRAMINE 4g/dose Pdr	***02139189***	***Novo-Cholamine (can)***	***NOP***	***– DISCONTINUED***
	02139197	***Novo-Cholamine Light (can)***	***NOP***	***– DISCONTINUED***
	02210320	pms-Cholestyramine	PMS	
	02207745	pms-Cholestyramine (can)	PMS	
	00890960	pms-Cholestyramine Light	PMS	
	02125463	pms-Cholestyramine Light (can)	PMS	
	00634093	***Questran (can)***	***BQU***	***– DISCONTINUED***
	01918486	***Questran Light***	***BQU***	***– DISCONTINUED***
CYCLOSPORINE 100mg/mL O/L	***02244324***	***Apo-Cyclosporine***	***APX***	***– DISCONTINUED***
	02150697	Neoral	NVR	
ERYTHROMYCIN ETHYLSUCCINATE 40mg/mL O/L	***00000299***	***EES-200***	***ABB***	***– DISCONTINUED***
	00605859	Novo-Rythro EES	NOP	
ERYTHROMYCIN ETHYLSUCCINATE 80mg/mL O/L	***00453617***	***EES-400***	***ABB***	***– DISCONTINUED***
	00652318	Novo-Rythro EES	NOP	
FLUPHENAZINE DECANOATE 25mg/mL Inj	***02244166***	***Apo-Fluphenazine***	***APX***	***– DISCONTINUED***
	02091275	pms-Fluphenazine	PMS	
	00349917	***Modecate***	***BQU***	***– DISCONTINUED***
METHYLPREDNISOLONE SODIUM SUCCINATE 40mg/vial Inj	02231893	Methylprednisolone Sod Succ	NOP	
	02230211	***Solu-Medrol***	***PFI***	***– DISCONTINUED***
MIDAZOLAM 1mg/mL Inj	***02243253***	***Apo-Midazolam***	***APX***	***– DISCONTINUED***
	02240285	Midazolam	SDZ	
PROCHLORPERAZINE 5mg Tab	00886440	Apo-Prochlorazine	APX	
	01964399	***Nu-Prochlor***	***NXP***	***– DISCONTINUED***
PROCHLORPERAZINE 10mg Tab	00886432	Apo-Prochlorazine	APX	
	01964402	***Nu-Prochlor***	***NXP***	***– DISCONTINUED***
SULFINPYRAZONE 100mg Tab	00441759	Apo-Sulfinpyrazone	APX	
	02045680	***Nu-Sulfinpyrazone***	***NXP***	***– DISCONTINUED***
SULFINPYRAZONE 200mg Tab	00441767	Apo-Sulfinpyrazone	APX	
	02045699	***Nu-Sulfinpyrazone***	***NXP***	***– DISCONTINUED***

PHARMACARE PROGRAMS ADJUDICATION SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

Effective January 28, 2007, the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs Adjudication System will be moved to the existing Medavie Blue Cross – POSv software.

In an effort to ensure ongoing reliability of our claims processing and to take advantage of supported technologies, a project has been initiated to replace the current application. The replacement system will provide internal improvements to functionality and system flexibility, enabling a high quality of customer service.

As pharmacies currently submit their claims for private business through this system, it has been determined that re-accreditation is not required.

The current submission of pharmacy claims will be shut down January 27, 2007 at 11:59 pm.

Although the transaction standards (CPhA) will not be changing the following fields have been identified as requiring a change to the current values being entered:

FIELD	FIELD NAME	DETAILS
A.01.01	BIN	610047 – same as number used for Medavie Blue Cross claims.
B.21.03	Pharmacy ID Code	Some pharmacies may have their ID changed due to system constraints. You will be provided with a list of those changes.
C.30.03	Carrier ID	NS
C.31.03	Group Number or Code	Ignored
D.61.03	Prescriber ID	Some prescribers may have their ID changed due to system constraints. You and your vendor will be provided with a list of those changes.

For information pertaining to any system changes please contact your vendor. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Karen Gillis (902) 490-3655 or by e-mail karen.gillis@medavie.bluecross.ca